

## **Important Immigration Update-Please Read!!!**

As we are already in March and the semester is passing quickly, I want to clarify for you some of the new procedures regarding the new immigration student and exchange visitor information system (SEVIS), as well as our office workload and timelines. We will also be having another question and answer information session sometime in early April. Please check your e-mail for the exact time and place.

**Practical Training:** For anyone who wants to apply for optional practical training for either a summer internship or upon completion of their studies, if you have not already done so, you should be coming into the office as soon as possible. We need approximately 2-3 weeks to issue you a new SEVIS I-20 with the recommendation. You then have to mail your application to the immigration service for processing which will take approximately another 8-10 weeks. If you do not apply soon, it will be highly unlikely that you will have all of your documents processed for a late May start date.

If you are applying for post completion practical training and don't want to start until sometime in late June or July, you have a bit more time to apply but should come in by early April.

Please remember that, under the new regulations, you must apply for practical training **BEFORE** your completion of studies date. You no longer can apply within the 60 day grace period after you finish your studies.

**Travel:** If you will be traveling over the summer and either:  
will be reentering to the US after August 1 **OR**  
will be coming back before August 1 but need to renew your visa stamp in your passport,  
then you will need a new SEVIS I-20 to return. ***You will no longer be able to just get a signature on your current I-20.*** In order to do a new I-20 for you we will need updated financial certification for the 2003-2004 academic year (such as a letter from your department or bank statement). Please bring this information with you when you apply for the new I-20. You need to give our office 2-3 weeks to process these requests.

Because of the high volume of traffic, there is the possibility that we may not be able to process your new I-20 before you leave in which case we will take your address and we will pay to mail the form to you at a later date by DHL (express mail).

If you are traveling outside the US and will:  
NOT be renewing your visa stamp, AND  
be returning **BEFORE** August 1,  
then we can sign your current I-20 for reentry and you can get a new SEVIS I-20 at a later date (see paragraph below).

**Program Extensions:** If your current I-20 or IAP-66/DS2019 will be expiring at the end of May, you need to apply for an extension **BEFORE** your current form expires. We will need a letter from your advisor or chairperson of your department explaining the reason for the extension. You will also need to show us updated financial certification for the duration of the extension you are requesting. At that point you will be issued a new SEVIS I-20 or DS2019. Please come in at least 2-3 weeks before your form is expiring to make this request. (**over**)

**All international students and scholars and their dependents**, who will be in the US AFTER August 1 will need to get new SEVIS immigration forms, either an I-20 for F-1s or a DS2019s for J-1s. If you do not receive a new SEVIS I-20 or DS2019 either by applying for practical training, a program extension, or for travel as described above, we will automatically be issuing you one.

However, if you are not applying for work permission, travel permission, or an extension of your stay, we will not be issuing you a new form until AFTER June 2. During the months of June and July the office will be processing these forms. However we first need to do the new SEVIS forms for those students and scholars who need to work, travel, etc.

Please remember for everyone who will need a new SEVIS immigration form either now or by August 1, we need your:

- \*current local address
- \*foreign address in your home country
- \*up-to-date passport and visa information

If any of this information has changed since you last were in our office, please let us know. You can e-mail me at nussbaua@bc.edu with updated address information, but we will have to see your actual documents for any changes in passport or visa information.

If you have any dependents in the U.S. we will also need to know:

- \*his/her name
- \*date and place of birth
- \*country of citizenship and permanent residence

We also will need to see his/her passport, visa and I-94 card.

*There will be the opportunity at our April information session to update us with this information so please bring all appropriate documents.*

**Office Updates:**

**\*\*\*Please be aware that during the week of May 26-30 there will be no one in the office to issue forms or process applications as we will be attending a national immigration conference. Therefore you must come in 2-3 weeks before this date if you need anything by the end of May.\*\*\***

And until further notice we will be keeping our new office hours of only being open to the public Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10-4. We know this is an inconvenience but it is the only way we can process all of your requests in a timely manner.

Finally, I regret to announce that Maria Hernandez, our international student advisor will be leaving BC on April 18. We'd like to thank Maria for all of her hard work over the past 22 months and wish her well in her new position at Harvard University.

The office will be hiring two new staff members in the coming months, a new international student advisor, and an international student systems administrator who will be helping with our new SEVIS responsibilities. We will make an announcement once these positions are filled. In the meantime we are going to have to ask for your patience. Between the new SEVIS requirements, Maria's departure, and unavoidable delays in the system, we are not going to be able to process applications nearly as quickly as we have in the past. Thank you.

-Adrienne Nussbaum, Asst. Dean for International Student Services